



The Canal Zone Philatelist



Vol. 41, No. 4

Fourth Quarter, 2005

Whole No. 157

President's Report

By David Zemer

sosahill@hotmail.com

Using Ebay to promote the Canal Zone Study Group Part 2, Aug. 2003 - Aug. 2005

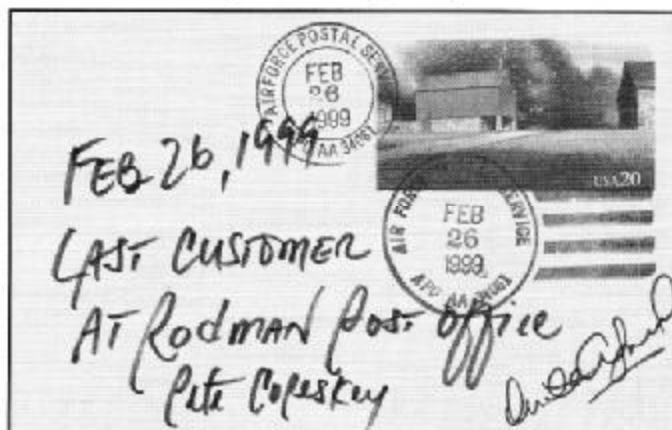
In the third quarter, 2004, I promised to report on how we have been using Ebay to attract new members to the CZSG. Now, with two years under my belt, I feel that we have enough experience to complete this report.

During our first two years we have averaged about one new member a month joining the CZSG, directly through Ebay. Because of the good results that we have had using Ebay, I can strongly recommend that we continue using it and that others consider using Ebay as a means of increasing memberships in their hobbies or interests.

In order to help others get started with Ebay I will briefly describe how we have used it to attract members and alert present members to new activities at different locations around the United States. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact me by email or letter.

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U.S. Post Office Closures after Oct. 1, 1979 in the former Canal Zone By Peter Copeskey



Naval Station Panama Canal (Rodman) - APO 34061 - 26 Feb. 1999, LDC

The CZSG has provided members with extensive information on the postal activities during the Canal Zone days, through the time leading up to the implementation of the U.S.-Panama Treaties and the subsequent closure of all the Canal Zone Post Offices. However, since 01 Oct 79 only limited information has been published to document the various U.S. postal activities, all of which were managed by the U.S. Air Force (USAF) since that time. One exception to this lack of documentation is an 81 page self published "Guide to the

U.S. Military Post Offices (MPOs) in Panama 1979-1999" by Matthew Hovious, of which I received one of a handful of draft copies in early 1999. Additionally, long time CZSGers Bob Karrer, Jeanne Stough and Chris DeVoe (of C&H Stamps) have also been involved by designing cachets for Last Day Covers (LDCs) allowing us to remember. Bob Karrer has always been generous in documenting many of these covers and closures

(continued on page 28)

Preliminary Announcement

**CZSG to Meet at
Washington 2006**

Sat., May 27, 2006, 2PM

Contact: **R.D. Bates**

bates@georgetown.edu

PO Box 40583

Washington, DC 20016-0583

Meeting Notice

ARIPEX 2006, Saturday Feb 11, 2006
2pm, Mesa Centennial Hall,
201 N. Center Street, Mesa, AZ

WESTPEX 2006, Saturday April 29,
2006 at 12:30 p.m., San Francisco
Airport Marriott, 1800 Old Bayshore
Highway, Burlingame, CA. Our 37th
consecutive annual meeting at
WESTPEX.

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Richard Spielberg, Editor

4535 Via Del Buey
Yorba Linda, CA 92886
Home: (714) 693-3349
richard.spielberg@gte.net

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Display advertising accepted from CZSG members only at the following rates per insertion:

One column, two inches	\$10.00
One column, five inches	20.00
Two columns, five inches	35.00

No larger advertisements are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Editor.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone, or FAX the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

Secretary's Report

**John C. Smith
408 Redwood Ln.
Schaumburg, IL 60193
TIME TO RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**

As of November 10, 2005, our membership stands at 706 members. The 2006 dues notices have been mailed and you should have received your dues envelopes before you read this. So please help your secretary by mailing in your dues as early as possible, along with any address change. It would be very helpful if you would enter your CZSG Number on your dues notice. A special field has been printed for this purpose. Your number is always on the address label to the right of your name, thank you.

It's 2006, an even numbered year, thus its election time again. One difference this year is there are two members running for the Vice President office, select one. Please check three candidates for Director and vote on the revision of the CZSG bylaws. The other candidates are running unopposed. Your vote of support is needed! The election is required by your CZSG bylaws. Even though there may be no competition in some offices.

Thank you very much for your support! Your CZSG officers wish you all a joyous Holiday Season and a fantastic New Year!

CZSG Officer Nominations

The CZSG Nominating Committee is please to announce its selection of the following members as candidates for Officers and Directors to serve for the period Jan. 1, 2006 - Dec. 31, 2007.

PRESIDENT: David T. Zemer

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Howard Ballou

Alan P. Bentz

SECRETARY: John C. Smith

TREASURER: Richard Larkin

DIRECTORS AT LARGE (3 positions open):

Paul Ammons

Richard Bates

William Fall

Gary Weiss

CZSG NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

David J. Leeds, Chm.

Irwin Gibbs

WASHINGTON 2006



World Philatelic Exhibition

Washington, DC USA

May 27-June 3, 2006

See you there!

www.washington-2006.org

**Articles
Wanted...
Contact Editor**

2006 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps
by Jim Crumpacker

The 2006 Scott Specialized Catalogue has been issued. It is not a year of great change for the Canal Zone listings. The one really meaningful difference is the addition of pricing in OG, NH condition for Scott 70-117, C1-C5, J21-J29, and O1, O2 plus O4-O7. No NH listing was given for O3 as this is a rare item. Most of the NH values were entered at around 50% above the hinged price. The 105-114 set averaged about a 30% increase in this regard whereas the J21-J24 set each has a NH value double the hinged price.

There were only a handful of price changes. A full sampling is shown below, all for OG items unless specified otherwise.

A minor entry problem, as last year, the price of a mint block of four of CO11 is quoted at \$1250.00. This is actually the price for a single stamp. Regarding text, the editor added the words "... and not centered" to the basic writeup on the Type III overprints, a useful note. All told, the contributors and editor did a very good job with this year's submission.

	2005	2006
39e, inverted center and overprint reading down	\$575.00	\$600.00
52g, double overprint, booklet single (used)	not listed	3,000.00
86g, vertical pair, one w/o overprint, other overprint inverted	2,250.00	2,500.00
90, Pl. # block of 4, large 5 point star, side only	unpriced	3,000.00

WINNERS:

THAMESPEX 2005.

October 23 2005, Waterford CT.

Jeanne F. Stough won a Vermeil award for a display class exhibit, *Canal Zone Heroes - The Last Twenty years*. It showed postal history from 1979 to 2000 with covers, postmarks and photos illustrating the changeover from Canal Zone Post Offices and stamps to Military Post Offices.

Robert J. Karrer, Jr. won a Vermeil award for another display class exhibit - *The United Fruit Co. and the Great White fleet - Posted on the High Seas Markings and other collectibles*. He also won the Most Popular Exhibit Award. It showed a half century of covers, postcards and mementos from, or depicting UFCo. activities in the Caribbean basin.

Alan P. Bentz won a Gold award, and the American Air Mail Society Certificate for an air mail exhibit entitled, *Cristobal CZ - Air Mail Hub to Latin America*. The exhibit showed the important role Cristobal played in opening up commercial airmail routes.

United States Postal Service

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CASAL ZONE STUDY GROUP, 408 REDWOOD LANE, SCHWABERD IL 60192

Editor (Name and complete mailing address)

RICHARD SPIELBERG, 4515 VIA DEL SUR, BOCA LINDA CA 92686

Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)

NOTE

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a corporation, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
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☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months

☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, October 2002

(See instructions on Reverse)

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a. Total Number of Copies (not press run)		850	850
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	(2) Paid/County Subscriptions Based on Form 3501 (Include advertiser's proof and invoice copies)	0	0
	(3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution	0	0
	(4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	32	30
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b(1), (2), (3), and (4))		703	696
d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, complimentary and other free)	(1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541	0	0
	(2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541	0	0
	(3) First-Class Mail® Through the USPS	18	18
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		16	15
f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e)		34	33
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)		737	729
h. Copies not Distributed		113	121
i. Total (Sum of 15g and h)		850	850
j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Ratio divided by 15g times 100)		93.4%	93.4%
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership If publication required, print by September 15, 2001, issue of this publication.		(C) Publication not required.	
17. Signature of Publisher, Business Manager or Owner <i>[Signature]</i> I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).		Date SEPTEMBER 16, 2000	

Instructions to Publishers

- Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy at the completed form for your records.
- In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
- Be sure to furnish additional information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be broken in items 15d, e, and f.
- Item 15h, Copies not Distributed, must include (1) nonpaid copies originally stated on Form 3541, and returned to the publisher (if estimated); also its news agents; and (2) copies for office use, libraries, schools, and all other copies not distributed.
- If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or regular publication, the Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published. It must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the last issue printed after October.
- In Item 15, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
- Item 17 must be signed.

Falsify to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization.

CZ P.O. Closures after Oct '79

continued from page 25

in his philatelic publication (*ICCJ*). Otherwise, only limited publicity, awareness or recognition has made it in print.

As of 01 Oct 79, the MPOs in Panama were managed by the USAF, hence the term Aerial Post Office (APO), and operated by USAF and U.S. government employees at the USAF, U.S. Army and U.S. Navy installations. Interestingly, the number of APOs does not match the number of MPOs in the former Canal Zone. All the AF bases, Army Posts, Naval Facility and U.S. government locations did not get their own zip code number. The full service MPOs, only at AF, Army, and Navy installations, operated as their predecessors, the Canal Zone Postal Service, who dutifully provided full postal services to the thousands of U.S. Military, U.S. Panama Canal employees, Department of Defense personnel, other authorized patrons and family members for the twenty years after the treaties were executed. This is a full 20 percent of the time the U.S. postal services were rendered on the isthmus.

This brief article is not to be the all-inclusive source material of the last 20 years of information, but it is a good start as to documenting and identifying the time when these U.S. postal services finally did come to an end on the Isthmus of Panama.

I was lucky enough to have served with the USAF in Panama from 1997 to 1999 and had fellow state-side CZSGers challenge me to document, routinely first hand, the closings of these MPOs. Here are the locations and dates of the MPO closings and their final base/post closing/transfer date into final Republic of Panama control. It is important to note that some MPOs serviced significantly large areas that included multiple military installations and local civilian communities. It is also important to note that the MPOs are directly related to and assigned a specific APO number, which was an extension of the United States Postal Service office out of Miami, FL (hence the Miami FL Zip Code numbers).

One final comment, with minor exception, these dates are correct. Some investigation is still underway to finalize the rest. As always, some of the CZSG membership may have the rest of the answers. Please contact me or the CZP editor with that information at your earliest convenience.



Howard AFB - APO 34001
23 October 1999, LDC



Quarry Heights - APO 34003
7 November 1997, LDC

Notes:

1 - APO 34002 Aerial Mail Terminal (AMT) services had difficulty in the early days of October 1979 as the Albrook AFS AMT but it survived and remained there until 31 Mar 97. Due to the pending closure of Albrook AFS, the AMT was moved to the Rodman Marine Barracks and opened for business on 01 Apr 97. Similarly, with the closure of the naval bases, the AMT again moved, this time to Howard AFB, in November 1998 where it remained operational until 23 Oct 99. Regardless of physical location, the AMT always used the 34002 cancellation devices.

2 - APO 34002, as of 06 Dec 99, the 34002 APO cancellation device became the only device used in Panama and mail was and is processed at the
(continued on next page)



U.S. Embassy - APO 34002
6 December 1999, FDC

APO #	APO/MPO Name	APO/MPO closed - base/post to Panama
34001	Howard Air Force Base APO/MPO	23 Oct 99 - 01 Nov 99
34002	Albrook Air Force Station APO/MPO	15 Aug 97 - 01 Oct 97
34002	Albrook AMT [hanger 4]	31 Mar 97 - 01 Oct 97
34002	Rodman/Marine Barracks AMT [bldg 3001]	15 Nov 98 - 30 Apr 99
34002	Howard AMT [bldg 201]	est 23 Oct 99 - 01 Nov 99
34003	Quarry Heights APO/MPO	07 Oct 97 - 08 Jan 98
34004	Fort Clayton (bldg 95) APO/APO	22 Nov 99 - 30 Nov 99
34004	Corozal East (temp 34004) APO/MPO	06 Dec 99 - 06 Dec 99
34005	Fort Davis APO/MPO	31 Aug 95 - 01 Sep 95
34005	Fort Sherman APO/MPO	30 Apr 99 - 30 Jun 99
34006	Fort Kobbe APO	23 Oct 99 - 01 Nov 99
34007	Fort Amador APO/MPO	27 Sep 96 - 01 Oct 96
34008	Fort Gulick/Fort Espinar APO/MPO	est 20 Dec 89 - 01 Sep 95
34009	Army and Air Force Exchange Service APO	N/A est Dec 91
34011	Panama Canal Commission Mail APO	N/A est Dec 99
34059	Fort Amador Navy Units APO	N/A - 01 Oct 96
34060	Galeta Island Army Units APO	N/A - 15 Mar 99
34061	Rodman Naval Station APO/MPO	26 Feb 99 - 30 Apr 99

U.S. Embassy which continues to provide limited postal services to U.S. Embassy and retired U.S.



Corozal East PO - APO 34004 27 November, 1999, FDC

military personnel in Panama.

3 - APO 34004, the Corozal East Post Office (PO), was opened for only eight business days during the period from Monday 27 Nov 99 through Wednesday 06 Dec 99, due to the reversion of Ft Clayton to Panama on 01 Dec 99. The Corozal East PO was warranted due to the sufficient numbers of troops still assigned to the area that required postal services and the most centrally located facility for the troops besides Bldg 95 Ft Clayton was Corozal. Only two or three 34004 cancellation devices were transferred

to the new location - building 797 Corozal, - over the long Thanksgiving weekend. The other devices were to be destroyed or turned in to the main PO at Howard AFB. However, by the time the Corozal closure came on 06 Dec 99, no 34004 devices could be found! As a result, only 34002 devices were available and they cancelled what few parcels were to be mailed, including LDCs from me (six) and Mr. Chris DeVoe (handful). All were cancelled by Postal Clerk, Harry Harrison Jr.

4 - APO 34005 initially operated on Fort Davis and serviced the other Atlantic side military bases to include Ft Sherman and Galeta Island plus other authorized patrons. On 01 Sep 95 that responsibility transferred to the now full service PO at Ft Sherman. The closure of Ft Sherman signaled the end of 95 years of U.S. postal service on the Atlantic side of the isthmus.

5 - APO 34008 operated on Fort Gulick with normal services from 1979 until 1984. It was then renamed Ft Espinar and much of the base transferred back to Panama and subsequently the military population and operations decreased significantly

through 1988 but PO services continued. In December 1989 Operation Just Cause took place and caused heavy damage to many base facilities, including the post office. It has been reported, though not confirmed, that the PO never reopened and to date, no 34008 cancellations have been found after 1988.

6 - APO 34061 advertised their last day of service as 28 Feb 99 (a Sunday) but the true last day for cancellations was on Friday, 26 Feb 99. Additionally, the one mail drop box outside the post office was sealed up on 12 Feb 99, two full weeks prior to the last day of service to help remind customers to drop outgoing mail inside and of the pending stoppage of service. The last day for financial services was also on 12 Feb 99.

7 - According to the Department of Defense document "Military Post Office Location List" dated from 1990, other APOs in Panama were identified for general mail delivery/pick-up purposes but never had MPOs, services or cancellation devices. These APOs were: 34006 - Ft Kobbe, 34009 - AAFES mail, 34011 - Balboa Administration building, 34059 - Ft

Book Review

Gary B. Weiss

American Air Mail Catalogue, Volume 3, 6th edition, edited by Samuel J. Pezzillo. American Air Mail Society, 1978 Fox Burrow Court; Neenah, WI 54956-1184, 2004. 486 pages. \$39 ppd (\$32 for AAMS members)

The recent (2004) publication of volume 3 of the *American Air Mail Catalogue* (AAMC) is a major event for Canal Zone aerophilately. The last time there was a listing for Canal Zone flight covers in the AAMC was in 1970 when volume 3 of the 4th edition devoted less than 2 pages to this topic (pp 563-564). Only six flights were listed with mention that most flights could be found elsewhere in the catalogue such as the foreign air mail route section. Prices then included \$75 for the 1918 Liberty Loan Flight and \$60 for the 1920 attempted Jamaica flight.

The new edition finally devotes the

space appropriate to this important topic (pp 403-453). CZSG member David J. Leeds has done a remarkable job gathering all the information on this topic into one place. For any collector of Canal Zone flight covers, this book is a must.

The listings are divided into four parts: a chronologic listing of covers, space covers, balloon covers (Operation Ashcan), and rate changes. The last three sections are new and finally allow the collector to create a meaningful want list. The first section provides a very detailed listing (of 136 major flight and other air mail related covers) including many illustrations and an extensive cataloguing of sub-varieties. I was surprised at how many items I need that were not previously on my want list including some with only a \$5 catalogue value. Many of these covers are not illustrated or previously described and would make interesting articles for this journal.

I have only two criticisms and hope

that they can be easily corrected in a future edition. First is pricing and this may relate to the need for consistency throughout the catalogue. [Leeds (personal communication, 2004) did not set the final prices.] Prices in general seem very low with only a few overpriced items. For some of the rare items in my collection, I have paid multiples of the current listings at competitive auctions and from knowledgeable dealers. The first two flights listed are both now priced at \$50 in contrast to the 1970 prices of \$75 and \$60 respectively, a significant fall in value over 34 years. The 1925 SCADTA survey flights range from \$100 to \$190 but rarely sell below \$200 and are being offered by one dealer at over \$600. The unique Canal Zone to Germany via SS Bremen catapult service cover is priced at only \$300.

My other complaint is assigning distinct catalog numbers to material of a questionable nature. For

(continued on page 31)

CZSG 2005 Mail Sale Report by Jim Crumpacker

The CZSG Mail Sale of 2005 concluded on Sept. 25 with 763 lots offered.

Sound error stamps sold for about 75% of Scott on average. Scarcer basic numbers such as 46 and 48, NH, did as well. Post 1928 plate blocks received generous bids. Most of the precancels sold at or well above estimate. Ninety-percent of the liquor tax revenues sold above estimate. A dozen years ago you couldn't give these things away. The scarcer postal stationery did decently but the common material brought plebian prices. "Opening Day" and "Last Day" covers did quite nicely.

The Sale was put up on the internet this year, courtesy of Sale Manager Tom Brougham. All in all, the consignors should have been quite pleased with the prices obtained.

Some of the most interesting realizations appear below. As no buyers' commission has ever existed at our CZSG Mail Sales, the first price shown (plus a pittance for postage) represents the total cost of the lot to the winner. The next value, in parenthesis, is from the 2005 *Scott's Specialized Catalogue*.

- 3, OG/TG, probably NH, F \$320 (\$350)
- 11a, ZONE antique, OG, H, VF \$150 (\$200)
- 15, very sl. trop OG, NH, couple short perfs o/w VF w/ Type B "8" \$1050 (\$2,600)
- 16a var., "1 ct." is 1mm above bar, TG, HR, VF+ \$145 (\$n/a)
- 19a, used, ZONE antique, F \$135 (\$180)
- 22f, double overprint, one inverted, OG, H, a thin o/w VF+ \$675 (\$1,500)
- 32c, booklet pane of 6, handmade, OG, HR., some short perfs 1 side from knife (as usual). "T" in selvage, VF \$440 (\$750)
- 39a, horiz. pair, rt. stamp w/o ovpt, TG, apparently NH, w/ rt. and bott. margins, F \$900 (\$1,250)
- 39b, horiz. pair, left stamp w/o ovpt, dist. TG, HR's, VF w/margin \$1,350 (\$1,750)
- 39d, inverted overprint, OG, H, VF \$130 (\$175)

- 39e, inverted center and overprint reading down, OG, NH, VF \$420 (\$575)
- 46, 1st. pr., OG, NH, F \$160 (\$160)
- 46, used, 2nd pr., VF+ \$90 (\$180)
- 46, used, 1st. pr., VF \$85 (\$125)
- 47, OG (v. sl. trop.), NH, perfs. just in at top, o/w VF \$1,050 (\$3,250)
- 47, used, VF+ \$80 (\$100)
- 48, 1st. pr., OG, NH, F w/ margin \$380 (\$500)
- 54, OG, NH, F+ \$76 (\$150)
- 55a, inverted overprint, OG, NH, VF+ \$165 (\$300)
- 56f, ZONE double, in pair w/ normal, has bott. but no left selvage, OG, NH, F \$525 (\$1,250)
- 67, dried TG, apparently NH, VF+ \$440 (\$500)
- 69 var., Unissued Coat of Arms set of 7 plus 68 & 69, dull or dried OG, NH except for 12c; F-VF \$1,050 (\$2,450)
- 84b, ZONE CANAL, OG, tiny HM, F \$210 (\$500)
- 86b, CANAL inverted, in pair w/ normal, dried TG, probably NH, F \$600 (\$950)
- 86 var., ZONE wrong font, in pair w/ normal, OG, NH, F \$250 (\$n/a)
- 91a, ZONE only, OG, LH, VF w/ bott. margin \$950 (\$900)
- 94, OG, VLH, F \$90 (\$240)
- 95, OG, NH, almost VF \$56 (\$125)
- 117b, handmade booklet pane of 6, guideline bott. w/ arrow, OG, NH, VF \$125 (\$160)
- 26, used w/ ovpt as Postage Due, CZSG 26.PD-A, Bliss precancel, a tiny perf. wrinkle o/w F-VF \$125 (\$n/a)
- 30, used w/ ovpt as Postage Due, CZSG 30.PD-B, Bliss precancel, F \$190 (\$n/a)
- J20, 1st. or 3rd. pr., TG, H, F+ \$85 (\$150)
- 93, pl. bl. of 6, #17448-B, OG, NH, a staple hole in selvage o/w F \$68 (\$250)
- 93, pl. bl. of 6, #17449-T w/ "F", OG, NH, a staple hole in selvage o/w VF \$230 (\$250)
- UX13 var. (UPSS 22a). 1c indicia inverted at LL, mint entire, VF \$900 (\$750 UPSS)
- 71 (F-VF, se), FDC GATUN 7/1/24, minor edge toning o/w F-VF \$24 (\$n/a)
- 119 (VF), on unsealed 3rd class env. Balb. Hts. 4/1/40, VF \$230 (\$n/a)

- C17, perf. P, minor bumps o/w VF, on cover Balb. Hts. 7/10/40, VF \$440 (\$n/a)
- J18, 2nd pr., on returned 3rd class mail sent w/ 105a, rubber stamped "RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED", Gatun to US 11/29/29 "POSTAGE DUE 1½c" and other marks, some creases o/w F- VF \$220 (\$n/a)
- UX4 (S11), Crist. 10/6/20, failed flight to Jamaica w/ all appropriate marks, VF \$115 (\$150 AAMC)

Auctions by Jim Crumpacker

The offerings of Canal Zone philately at public auction in the three month period which ended Sept. 30, 2005 was plagued by typical seasonal slowness. However, a few items of interest trod across the boards, just enough to make this write-up worthwhile.

The total selling price, which is hammer plus commission, is shown first and is followed by the catalog value, in parenthesis, from the 2005 *Scott's Specialized Catalogue*.

- 1, OG, H, VF \$1,100 (\$550) HR Harmer
- 26a, double overprint, one reading up, OG, HR, couple paper adhesions o/w F-VF \$4,125 (\$3,750) HR Harmer
- 59, OG, H, F-VF \$61 (\$175) Tropical
- 60b, booklet pane of 6, OG, H, F-VF \$935 (\$1,000) HR Harmer
- 61b, double overprint, OG, NH, VF w/ T & L margins, \$1,375 (\$900) HR Harmer
- 80, OG, H, F-VF \$29 (\$78) Tropical
- 95, OG, NH, VF \$187 (\$125) HR Harmer
- J2, OG, H, F \$77 (\$250) Tropical
- Zeppelin flight, Cristobal 5/15/30 w/ CZ C1, C3, C4 and U.S. C13 added, all F or better, via Havana, cancel 5/27/30 in NYC, on VF card which arrived Friedrichshafen 6/6/30 \$2,090 (\$n/a) Cherrystone

The few names and addresses of the auction houses offering these lots are shown below.

- Cherrystone Auctions, Inc.**
119 West 57th St.
New York, NY 10019
- H.R. Harmer, Inc.**
3 East 28th Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10016
- Tropical Stamps, Inc.**
P.O. Box 5646
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310

President's Report

continued from page 25

Getting Started on Ebay

Ebay has very clear instructions on how to get started and easy to follow tutorials. Just go to www.Ebay.com and click onto SELL. From here go to Sell On Ebay. Ebay makes it quite easy to get started and certainly the incentive to use Ebay is clear:

By November 2005 Ebay had 157 million users and was adding 100,000 new users every day.

You need to register as a seller by confirming a valid email address and then opening an account with your credit card or bank account information.

You will also need access to a Personal Computer with an internet link. If you do not have this at home or work then find a friend who does or check out your local library. If you are computer challenged and have children or grandchildren, most likely they will be able help you. If you want to add a photograph or scan, then a digital camera or scanner is required.

Ebay Selling Costs for the CZSG

One of the first questions that a first time "seller" has concerning Ebay is to do with costs. On the whole they are very small when compared to the extremely large number of Ebay users that might view your "product".

Our Listing costs

Ebay charges us a fee for listing an offer of membership. The first fee, called an insertion fee, is simply to list our membership for a period of 7 days. Since most products sold are sold to the highest bidder this is based on the starting value of the product. For products under \$10 this fee is \$0.35. To extend the listing from 7 to 10 days there is an additional fee of \$0.40. This fee also allows one picture to be included with the description. We pay an additional dollar for the right to include 6 pictures. Thus our 10-day listing with 6 photos costs \$1.75, or about 18 cents a day.

Costs when a new member joins

Ebay has fee of 5.25% of the final selling price of a product. Since our annual membership is \$8/year this amounts to an additional \$0.42 for each new member who joins through

Ebay. If no new member joins during this 10 day period then there is no selling fee.

Payment

New members can pay their membership several ways including cash (I accept most Western European currencies and U.S. dollars), U.S. dollar checks made out to a U.S. bank, or by using Paypal.

Paypal is the banking arm of Ebay and it allows an easy transfer of funds from most Western countries to and from credit cards or bank accounts. The seller is charged a fee of 2.9% + \$0.30 for payments less than \$3,000 from a U.S. buyer to a U.S. seller. When either the buyer or seller has an account outside the USA the fee is about 3.9% + \$0.40. There is no buyer fee. If a new member in the United States pays through Paypal then we have an additional cost of \$0.53.

Ebay Listing - TITLE

The Ebay listing starts with a title limited to 55 characters including blanks. This limitation is one reason our titles are as short as they are. In order for a potential member to find our listing I always include "Panama Canal Zone". After that I try to add something of interest. This has included mentioning a CZSG meeting in a city, a Canal Zone related exhibit at a Stamp Show, a new handbook available to members or at the end of the year simply Join Now! Panama Canal Zone Stamp Group's Super-deal where for only \$10 the new member receives the last 2 issues of the CZP for the year plus he or she is a member for the next year.

DESCRIPTION

Ebay allows us to put a great deal on information in the description. When I first started listing the CZSG, the description was fairly straightforward with a general background of our group and copies of 6 pages of *The Canal Zone Philatelist*. A short time later, Ebay added an editing ability that allowed me to write a description using different fonts, colors, and links to other websites. Because of this I was soon experimenting with different formats plus linking to our website and to other non-profit sites such as the National Postal Museum and the APS.

As long as no one has bid on an item

Ebay also lets the seller revise the title or description. This has proved handy in adding news or correcting errors in the text.

CZSG NEWS FOR AND BY MEMBERS ON Ebay

Because we can headline events related to Canal Zone philately, I encourage our members to contact me if they are aware of a local CZSG meeting or exhibit. Normally I can update the title and description when the membership offer is re-listed and we can let members and nonmembers know of the event. The potential audience over 157 million is huge and our cost to publicize an event of only \$0.18 per day.

Book Review

continued from page 29

the exhibitor, this will present a real problem. Omission of these items from an exhibit will raise questions from judges as to the exhibit being incomplete while inclusion may have the judge correctly stating that these items do not belong. My first example (AAMC CZ#8) is the unflown postal cards prepared by R. S. Carter for the 1925 USS Los Angeles flight; while these are certainly collectible and are in my collection, they probably do not rate a catalogue number. Similarly, a number of Lindbergh Day covers are listed. The May 1929 first flights between Panama City and David, R.P. are listed as AAMC CZ#35 and 35a; the Canal Zone connection is unclear. Routine SCADTA CZ-Columbia covers are listed by year of service (AAMC CZ#7a-e) while U.S. Postal Agency, Cali, Columbia covers are listed by origins (AAMC CZ#113a-i). These last items are the basis for exhibits on their own merits but are not special flights. Including these items raises the question of why (some) air mail stamp first day covers are not listed.

Overall, this volume would be a must for the Canal Zone aerophilatelist if only for the Canal Zone section. In addition, this volume also includes the invaluable section on foreign air mail contract routes (FAM's) with extensive listings, maps and illustrations of many more Canal Zone first flight covers.

Fake Overprints on Canal Zone Stamps

By Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Overprinted U.S. Issues - 1924-1933

Part VI - Sharp A Overprints -
Sesquicentennial Commemorative

This discussion of fakes on the sharp A overprints begins with an example that is not complicated by the existence of more than one printing, by considerations of rotary versus flat plate press printings, or by the complications of the gauge of the perforations. Yet fakes of this overprint are known, are relatively easy to spot, and serve to illustrate quite effectively the types of fakes to look out for on the series with sharp A overprints.



Fig. 1 No. 96 with good overprint

This stamp is not often the subject of articles in the *CZP*, and Canal Zone Stamps devotes only slightly more than a page to it. The stamp is the only U.S. Bureau of Printing and Engraving commemorative stamp that was ever overprinted for use in the Canal Zone. That stamp is Canal Zone No. 96, the Sesquicentennial Commemorative stamp of 1926, which was overprinted on U.S. No. 627.

The basic stamp is carmine rose, and the Canal Zone overprint in two horizontal lines, is a dark, glossy black, with well defined edges of the overprint. The spacing between CANAL and ZONE is only 5 mm, unlike other sharp A overprints. No major varieties exist, though there are minor varieties including alignment of the CANAL with respect to the ZONE, partially printed letters, and broken letters.

The basic stamp is illustrated in Fig. 1 with its characteristics summarized in the accompanying table. This example includes a broken L in Canal at UL.

Summary of Characteristics of Sharp A Overprint on Scott No. 96

height of letters in overprint: 2.2 - 2.4 mm
length of CANAL overprint: 11.5 mm
length of ZONE overprint: 9.0 mm
spacing between CANAL and ZONE: 4.8-5.0 mm

The 5.0 mm spacing between the words CANAL and ZONE is unusual for a sharp A overprint, and most fakes do not try to match this spacing. As a result, the unusual spacing between CANAL and ZONE is useful in detecting fakes on this stamp. If the spacing is 5.0 mm, a check of the length of the CANAL overprint to see if it measures 11.5 mm will usually catch the other fakes.



Fig. 2 Fake with large letters

Figure 2 illustrates a fake overprint used to "create" many Canal Zone stamps in the series with the sharp A overprint. The letters in the overprint appear large, primarily because the length of the word CANAL is 12.0 mm. The 7.0 mm spacing between the two lines in the overprint is too large. This fake is often encountered, and is not likely to fool most collectors.



Fig. 3 Fake with blobby, misshapen letters

The next two examples of fake overprints on U.S. No. 627 also should fool few collectors. The example in Fig. 3 can be described as having blobby, misshapen letters. The spacing between the two lines of the overprint is only 4.0 mm. The word CANAL

though correct in length at 11.5 mm, has letters that are a tad short, at just over 2 mm, but with poorly shaped serifs and misaligned letters, this is a poor quality fake, though it is seen on many stamps posing as sharp A overprints.



Fig. 4 Fake with thick, stubby letters

The example in Fig. 4 has a 9.0 mm CANAL to ZONE spacing (like most sharp A stamps), and the CANAL is only 10.7 mm in length. The individual letters are quite thick, and measure a bit short at just over 2 mm. Both of these fall into the category of not very good fake overprints.

However, that cannot be said for the



Fig. 5 Fake 96 - almost looks good

example in Fig. 5. The 5.1 mm spacing between the two lines of the overprint is within tolerance, although the length of CANAL gives it away as a fake as it measures only 11.0 mm. The letters have skips in the black ink that make the overprint seem light, much less bold than that normally seen on the genuine examples. The cancel is not a known CZ example, as the letters read "LOS..." However, if this is not side-by-side with a genuine copy, this example might pass a casual inspection.

I close this article in the continuing series on fakes of Canal Zone stamps with a bogus variety shown in Fig. 6. This example has the appearance of a double overprint, but no double overprint variety is known on No. 96. Thus it is appropriately termed bogus. It has been created by applying

(continued on page 33)

2005 CZSG Mail Sale Report

By Tom Brougham

The 33rd CZSG Mail Sale, which closed on September 25, sold 696 lots for a total realization of \$45,612. This year's Sale was smaller than last year's in number of lots and total realization, but made a slightly larger profit of about \$1,500. (Since some transactions are still in play, the precise amount could not be calculated at the time of this writing.)

There were 780 lots offered with total catalog or estimated values of \$81,987.90. Eighty lots were unsold, three were withdrawn and one lot was returned. The total catalog or estimated value of the 696 lots sold was \$70,549.15. The amount realized for these sold lots was 65% of their catalog or estimate values.

This year there were 152 bidders, of which 124 were successful on one or more lots and 28 were unsuccessful.

One of the interesting patterns observed this year was the degree of specialization of many bidders. A significant number of our bidders focused on items in only one or two sections of the Sale. Some of the back-of-the-CZ-book areas attracted great interest from many bidders who showed no interest in lots in the main stamp sections.

There were three-way tie bids for many lots. Lot 590 (Madden Dam

First Day of Service), lot 622 (#11 on cover front) and lot 776 (25th Anniversary Book) all attracted 14 bids each.

Forty-one of this year's bidders placed bids on four or fewer lots. It is probable that one factor limiting the number or level of bids from some bidders is their budget. As in past years, this Sale was able to accommodate 'or' bids and to maintain an upper limit on the amount purchased. Relatively few bidders, however, used either option this year.

Next year, the bid sheet and catalog will give more prominent information on these options and add a new one: the Sale's auction software can also allow bidders to rank their bids in order of interest in conjunction with their spending limit. These services may assist more bidders to be successful in the future and still stay within their budgets.

This year we allowed overseas bidders to pay for lots via PayPal. However, only one bidder chose to use this new option.

This year, for the first time, the Sale catalog was posted on the CZSG web site. The lot illustrations were posted in color. The prices realized are currently posted there.

It was my intention that this year's full catalog would be maintained on the web site after the Sale and the prices realized would be added inside

the catalog. The auction software also created a file with the amount realized added beside each lot description. Additionally, it was my intention this year to start an archive of previous years' catalogs with prices realized. This plan had the approval of the President of the CZSG but it did not happen. Instead I will be establishing an additional web site for the CZSG Mail Sale. There the Sale Manager would be able directly to post material and to maintain an archive of past Sale catalogs. This additional web site could then be linked to the main CZSG site.

I am seeking other ways to link the Sale into the selling activity on the web. Without such a link, I believe it will be increasingly difficult for our Sale to attract the material we need. On eBay an increasing amount of specialist CZ material is changing hands. Some of the most active members of the CZSG and the most active collectors of Canal Zone are purchasing large amounts of CZ material on eBay. The Sale is becoming less important even to our hard core members. The trick will be to maintain the best features of our current Sale, serve our members who do not participate in web-based bidding, add the new collectors who have helped created a new market on the web, and generally pick up the pace. Your ideas and suggestions are needed.

Fake OP on CZ #96

continued from page 32

a second fake overprint to a good copy of Canal Zone 96. The bad overprint is the lower of the two, and is of fairly good quality. The spacing between the two lines in the fake overprint is 4.8 mm, and the CANAL length is only 11.0 mm. Unlike the genuine overprint on the stamp which is sharp glossy black, with clearly defined edges of the letters, the fake shows numerous skips in the ink, an O that tilts to the left, and yes, did you spot it, the tops of the letters A are flat, not sharp.

The author expresses his appreciation for the support of George Stilwell



Fig. 6 Bogus double overprint

and Dick Salz, and their kindness in lending him examples from the fakes in their reference collections.

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Editors Note:

If a Study Group member has Last Day Cancels (LDC) or cancellations from the APOs from CZ POs that will better define the last day of service at any of the CZ APOs as reported in the article in this CZP – for future updates. Please send information and comments to the Editor.

The Canal Record

THE CANAL RECORD was first published on Wednesday, September 4, 1907. The first nine volumes run through August 16, 1916, and consist of 3,974 pages measuring 8 3/4" x 11 1/2" and though almost 100 years old the paper is still in good condition.

Numerous libraries in the United States received bound copies on a yearly basis of this weekly publication; so those of you who are interested might check your library for possible further reading.

I hope our members will enjoy the many articles from *THE CANAL RECORD* which will be published in the *Canal Zone Philatelist* from time to time.

Richard H. Salz

The Canal Record

THE CANAL RECORD is issued free of charge, one copy each, to all employees of the Commission whose names are on the "gold" roll. Extra copies can be obtained from the news stands of the Panama Railway company for five cents each."

ANNOUNCEMENT

"The primary purpose of *THE CANAL RECORD*, is the publication of accurate information, based upon official records, concerning all branches of the work of Canal construction. So far as practicable, the progress made week by week, month by month, and year by year will be shown in comparative tables of statistics. In addition there will be published such information in regard to the social life of the Zone, its amusements, sports and other activities, as is thought to be of general interest. Space will also be given to letters from employees relating to any topic upon which they may choose to write, subject only to the restrictions that such communications must be couched in respectful language and must be signed in each instance with the name and address of the writer."

Reprinted from *CANAL RECORD* -
Wednesday, October 30, 1907

Post Offices on Panama Ships.

The postmaster of New York has announced that after November 1, the steamships of the Panama Railroad Company, plying between New York and Cristobal will be fitted with sea post offices, in which all the mails to and from the Canal Zone will be distributed while "en route." It is understood that the first steamship to be equipped with such a post office will be the *Colon* which will sail from New York on October 31. A room for this purpose has been fitted up on the ship. The proposal for this sea service has been under consideration for two years and has been pressed urgently by the Zone postal authorities during that period. At present all mail to the Zone is taken in bulk to Colon and distributed thence to the various Zone stations, and on the return trip all Zone mail is taken to the New York post office and assorted before being sent to its destination. Under the new arrangement the unavoidable delays incident to the present method of distribution will be eliminated, and a gain of several hours in delivery will be secured, both in the Zone and in the States.

Reprinted from *CANAL RECORD* -
Wednesday, November 27, 1907

Late Mailing in New York

The postmaster of New York has added another and valuable facility to the new arrangements which he has made in regard to the quick transmission of mails to and from the Isthmus. A post office clerk has been detailed for duty at the Panama steamship pier at the foot of West 27th street, New York. He will be there an hour and a half before the advertised sailing time of the ships and will receive mail, up to ten minutes before the ship sails. No extra charge will be made on mail matter posted at the pier. Taken in connection with the establishment of sea post offices on

the steamships this new arrangement should be of great service in securing for people on the Isthmus prompt delivery of all mail matter from the states.

Reprinted from *CANAL RECORD* -
Wednesday April 29, 1908

Station A, Ancon Post-Office Abolished.

Station "A" of the Ancon post office, located in the old Administration Building, Panama, will be abolished at the close of business on April 30. This will be done because most of the offices have moved to the new Administration Building at Ancon and receive and send their mail through the Ancon post-office, and there is not a sufficient amount of business done in the old building to justify the retention of a separate post-office.

Reprinted from *CANAL RECORD* -
Wednesday, January 13, 1909

Mount Hope Printing Plant.

Plans have been approved for a printing plant building to be erected at Mount Hope, in which the printing and stationery work of the Commission and the Panama Railroad Company on the Isthmus will be done. The building will be erected north of the Mount Hope Depot office, will be 195 feet 8 inches in length and 60 feet in width, and will have two wings. The height from the floor to the eaves will be 16 feet. The roof will, be of corrugated iron, with a ventilator running the full length and with two skylights, each 6 feet wide, also running the length of the building on either side of the ventilators. The floors will be of pine laid on concrete, excepting in the toilet and engine rooms where the concrete will not be covered.

Across the north end of the building will be an office 60 feet long and 29 feet wide, separated from the remainder of the main building

(continued next page)

with a railing three feet high. The entrance to the building will be so arranged that employes and others must pass in front of the office in entering the building. The remainder of the building will consist of one room, a portion of which will be used as a packing and shipping room and bindery, and part as a press room. The foundations of the building will be made with a view to the placing of two Optimus presses, Nos. 5 and 6 respectively; 1 pony cylinder press; 18 job presses; 2 cutting machines; 3 ruling machines, and 1 folding machine. The part assigned for a press room is 60 feet 4 inches long, and 60 feet wide, and the composing room, bindery, and packing and shipping room will be enlarged or contracted in accordance with the demands made upon these departments.

Around two sides and the office end of the part assigned for the composing room, bindery, and packing and shipping room a gallery, 9 feet wide, will be built, which will be used for storage space.

On the east side of the main building and at the north end, a wing will be built for use as a receiving and shipping room. It will be 60 feet 8 inches long, 26 feet wide and will have a 4-foot concrete platform running out to a railroad siding. In the wing will also be toilet rooms for the office employes and for women. At the south end will be a wing 14 feet long and 51 feet 5 inches wide. It will be divided into a toilet room for silver employes, a room for the manufacture of rubber stamps, an engine room, and a stereotyping room.

Reprinted from *CANAL RECORD* -
Wednesday, February 17, 1909

Postage on Steamships.

The traveling public is advised that Canal Zone stamps are not valid for postage on steamers of the Panama Railroad Steamship Company after the vessels sail from Cristobal. United States stamps should be used for postage, and they can be purchased from the postal clerk on board.

Reprinted from *CANAL RECORD* -
Wednesday, June 28, 1911.

Wrong Use of the Penalty Envelope.

The attention of the public, and especially the officials of the United States Government on the isthmus, is invited to the wrong use of the penalty envelope in official correspondence carried on by officers of the Government of the Canal Zone with foreign postal administrations. In order that situations, not only embarrassing to the writers in the Canal Zone, but also to foreign postal administrations, may not arise, attention is called to provision of the postal laws covering this situation, as follows:

"Matter entitled to admission to the international mails free of postage - The following articles are entitled to transmission in international mails free of postage, viz.: Official correspondence exchanged between postal administrations, between these administrations and the international bureau, and between the exchange offices of different countries, as well as correspondence concerning prisoners of war, and for or from them without regard to the locality of the prisoners or the manner in which the correspondence is transmitted. Postage upon all other articles can be prepaid only by means of postage stamps. The reply half of a double postal card, bearing a postage stamp of the country which issued the double card, is to be considered as prepaid."

Reprinted from *CANAL RECORD* -
Wednesday March 6, 1912.

Postage Stamps Commemorative of the Canal Opening.

The Post Office Department has decided to issue a series of postage stamps commemorative of the opening of the Panama Canal, and to this end has requested the assistance of the Commission in preparing suitable designs. [Scott Nos. 42-45] The stamps will, be in four denominations, one, two, five, and ten cents.

Reprinted from *CANAL RECORD* -
Wednesday, June 26, 1912.

Parcels Posts for the Canal Zone.

The department of Civil Administration has been authorized by the Acting Chairman and Chief Engineer to submit plans for a system of parcels posts effective between points in the Canal Zone. At this time, the Canal Zone Government, in common with that of the United States, transacts parcels post business with 53 states and provinces, including all the greater nations of the world, with the exception of Russia. Until a parcels post system has been established in the United States, however, it is not probable that the postal authorities of the United States would consent to an interchange of parcels post deliveries between the United States and the Canal Zone without direct legislation. But there is nothing to prevent the establishment of a local system for interstate exchange between Canal Zone offices.

Reprinted from *CANAL RECORD* -
Wednesday, November 12, 1913.

Sending of Edibles by Mail. Circular No. 182:

To all Postmasters The postmaster at Cristobal reports that parcels post packages addressed to the West Indies, containing cake, are frequently partially destroyed while being held in his office, by ants, which also infest other mail in the despatch. You are hereby advised that parcels containing cake, sweets, and other edibles shall be regarded as "Perishable," and should not be accepted for mailing, unless enclosed in sealed tins, in order that they may be insect proof.

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